

October 18, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**WILD HORSES AND BURROS UP FOR ADOPTION IN BURNS**

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be offering approximately 510 wild horses and 30 wild burros at the Burns Wild Horse Corrals on Highway 20 (milepost 122) just west of Burns on Sunday, November 10, 2002. Approximately 270 of the wild horses were recently gathered from the Three Fingers Herd Management Area (HMA) near Owyhee Reservoir in Malheur County and will be available for adoption for the first time. The balance of the horses come from other southeastern Oregon herds. The burros come from California Desert herds. Animals range in age from weanlings to 8 years in age.

Note: All animals available for adoption will have a full complement of vaccinations for equine diseases, including the West Nile Virus.

The adoption event will feature five halter-trained yearlings as well as an especially large selection of weanlings and yearling horses from the Three Fingers HMA. Other activities associated with the adoption include gentling and packing demonstrations by Rick and Kitty Lauman of Prineville on Saturday. The Laumans will also provide a showing of their

award-winning, trained wild horse, Wyatt, on Sunday morning. A food concession will be available at the adoption.

Horse colors will include bays, sorrels, blacks, roans, and duns with a sprinkling of assorted other colors. Dean Bolstad, BLM Burns District Wild Horse Specialist says, "Adopters should be pleased with this bunch of horses which have good size and conformation and many of which are young and more easily gentled."

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The Burns adoption will use a competitive bid procedure with a minimum bid of \$125 for horses and Jenny burros.

All Jack burros will be offered at a reduced minimum bid of \$25. The BLM will offer adopters of any ungelded male horse or burro a \$50 voucher toward gelding costs.

Viewing and registration at the Burns Wild Horse Corrals will be from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, and from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Animal selection and competitive bidding will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Loading will begin at approximately 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

Gentling and packing demonstrations by the Lauman's will be conducted from 1:30 p.m. to

3:30 p.m. on Saturday and the packing demonstration will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Note: All prospective adopters must register at the adoption site by 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

Although applications will be accepted at the adoption site, people who are applying for the first time are encouraged to mail their applications to **BLM Wild Horse Program, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, OR 97738** as soon as possible (telefax applications will not be accepted) to allow for corrections and/or clarification of application information in time for the adoption.

"The Adopt-A-Horse or Burro program provides homes for wild horses that have to be removed from the public rangelands to maintain an appropriate management level consistent with maintaining a balance between wild horses or burros, native wildlife, domestic grazing, and healthy ecosystems," says BLM's Burns District Manager Tom Dyer. "To help maintain that balance, BLM gathers the excess animals and offers them for adoption," he says.

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Bolstad says, "The BLM has a lot of horses available for adoption throughout the west due to a large number of emergency gathers resulting from drought and wildfires." "Adopters can provide good safe homes for the animals gathered in Oregon and contribute a lot to the national effort," he says. He encourages people to come out to the adoption to view the horses and burros, take in the activities, and talk with past adopters who are always glad to share their experiences with newcomers to the program. Given proper training, wild horses and burros make excellent equestrian partners. They are known for their stamina, sturdiness, and intelligence.

For details on adoption requirements, bidding procedures, and application forms, call the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4456. The following Web site has current information on the Burns adoption: www.or.blm.gov/burns. For information on BLM's National Wild Horse and Burro Adoption program, call 1-866-4MUSTANGS, or check the Web site at www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov.

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